

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Evripides DRAKOS

10/597,161

Int'l. Filing Date: April 16, 2007

For: **Satellite Monitoring**

Confirmation No.: 6955

Art Unit: 2618

Examiner: A. Youssef

Atty. Docket: 1487.0680000

**Reply to Notification of Non-Compliant
Brief on Appeal Under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief, mailed November 18, 2009, Appellant submits the attached Claims Appendix containing a clean copy of the claims on appeal.

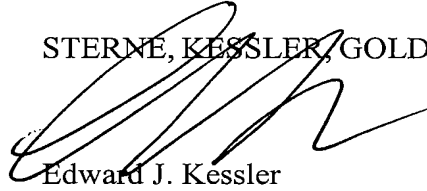
It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19 0036.

Appellant has proposed an amendment to claim 1 that corrects an obvious clerical error in that claim. (*See* Supplemental Amendment, filed October 21, 2009.) Entry of the proposed amendment would have no effect on the substantive consideration of the claims on appeal here.

The subject matter of claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 - 26 is patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the Examiner's final rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and remand this application for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Kessler', is written over the printed name of the attorney.

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Date: December 3, 2009

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Claims Appendix

1. A method of configuring a multibeam satellite to enable remote monitoring of its transmissions, wherein the satellite transmits a signal in a first beam to a user terminal for receiving the signal, the method comprising configuring the satellite to transmit a copy of the signal in a second beam selected to contain a remote monitoring station for monitoring the copy, wherein the copy is transmitted in the second beam in a channel different from that used for user data transmission to user terminals in the second beam.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the copy is transmitted at a substantially lower gain than the signal.

4. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the signal and the copy are transmitted at substantially the same frequency.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the signal is transmitted at a first frequency and the copy is transmitted at a second frequency different from the first frequency.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the copy of the signal is transmitted in a channel reserved for monitoring by the remote monitoring station.

7. The method of claims 1, wherein a copy of the signal is transmitted in a plurality of different beams, including said second beam.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of beams are selected so as each to contain a remote monitoring station for monitoring the copy.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the satellite is a repeater satellite configurable to convert a feeder link signal, transmitted from a terrestrial gateway to the satellite, to said signal and said copy of the signal.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the signal contains user data addressed to the user terminal.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of configuring comprises transmitting a configuration command directly or indirectly to the satellite.

13. The method of claim 1, further including transmitting directly or indirectly to the remote monitoring station channel allocation data identifying an allocation of one or more user channels within the signal such that the remote monitoring station monitors the one or more user channels.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the satellite additionally transmits one or more additional signals in one or more respective additional beams, and wherein the satellite is periodically reconfigured to select different ones of said signal and said one or more additional signals for transmitting a copy thereof in said second beam.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the satellite is periodically reconfigured so that each of said signal and said one or more additional signals is monitored sequentially.

16. A method of monitoring a transmission of a signal by a multibeam satellite in a first beam, the method comprising receiving a copy of the signal in a second beam of the satellite and monitoring the copy of the signal, wherein the copy is received in the second

beam in a channel different from that used for user data transmission to user terminals in the second beam.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the copy of the signal is received at a different frequency from that of the signal.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the copy of the signal is received in a channel reserved for monitoring.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the copy of the signal is received at the same frequency as that of the signal, and the second beam is non-adjacent to the first beam.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the gain of the copy is substantially lower than that of the signal.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the signal contains user data addressed to the user terminal.

22. The method of claims 16, further including receiving channel allocation data identifying an allocation of one or more user channels within the signal, and monitoring the one or more user channels.

23. A method of monitoring a property of the earth's atmosphere, comprising configuring a multibeam satellite to transmit multiple copies of a predetermined signal in different beams thereof, receiving each of said copies at corresponding spatially diverse monitoring stations, and deriving said property from the received copies, wherein said multiple copies of the predetermined signal are transmitted in channels different from those used for user data transmission to user terminals in the respective beams.

24. A computer program arranged to perform the method of claim 1.
25. A computer program product incorporating a computer program according to claim 24.
26. Apparatus arranged to perform the method of claim 1.